



Contents:

Re-Entry Roundtable.....	3
Reaching Out to Dads..	5
Outlook Migration	5
People Make the Difference	6
Retirements.....	7

DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

In May, Beverly Smith and Roy Doades received department-wide awards for their contributions to the Michigan Department of Corrections. Smith was the recipient of the Director's Award for Professional Excellence and was chosen from among eight people who received Professional Excellence awards. Officer Doades was selected as the 2011 Corrections Officer of the Year from five finalists who were previously recognized.

The Department would like to recognize the fellow employees who received Professional Excellence Awards this year:

Debra Bemister works in the Record Retention Office. She developed a plan and provided oversight for the movement of over 500,000 prisoner records from a vendor-provided service to an in-house service. The project involved changing all aspects to the record retention process, including negotiating with the vendor, developing databases for information transfer and overseeing the relocation of prisoner records. Due to Deb's perseverance and patience, the Department now has an efficient and readily accessible record retention area and process.

Tamra Flowers works in the Kalamazoo Parole/Probation Office. Her supervision responsibilities include sex offenders, a specialized population with enhanced supervision requirements. Tamra has been recognized by both her supervisors and her peers for her positive attitude and ability to identify problems and implement solutions that improve the workplace. She serves as the liaison for Kalamazoo County's Residential Sex Offender Program (RSOP) and developed processes for a smooth transition for the offenders in the program. As an RSOP agent, Tamra worked with the Michigan State Police to ensure offender compliance with the state's Sex Offender Registration Act. Tamra's conduct has distinguished her as a true professional. She takes pride in delivering the highest level of professional service to those on



PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE (Continued on page 2)



F.Y.I. is a publication of the Michigan Department of Corrections, Office of Public Information and Communications. Please submit articles through your supervisor to John Cordell at cordelljc@michigan.gov


PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE (from page 1)

her caseload and she genuinely cares about their outcomes. Tamra's efforts have improved the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Paul Jensen and Craig Shreve are corrections officers at Ionia Maximum Correctional Facility (ICF). Their knowledge of the Secure Status Outpatient Treatment Program (SSOTP) make them both valuable assets to the facility. Over the years, Jensen has consistently displayed professionalism and a conscientious work ethic. Shreve has embraced the qualities important to helping offenders succeed within the prison setting. Together, the two officers developed a schedule that met policy while providing both SSOTP and general population prisoners with appropriate access to various unit areas and activities. There are many issues with having a unit population that is blended like the one these two officers work in. Their ability to meet the needs of both offender populations is commendable. Their efforts show the intense dedication to prisoners they serve, the facility and the Department in general. They demonstrate a level of personal and professional integrity that makes the Department proud.

Donald Matson serves in Field Operations Administration's (FOA) Interstate Compact Unit. Since coming to the unit, Matson has made a number of changes and improvements in the system, resulting in an efficient and respected interstate compact process. Matson developed a detailed work statement and updated processes, documents and associated manuals. These actions assisted field agents and FOA supervisors in the daily processing of interstate transfer cases. Matson reinforced a positive

work environment for his staff so they took pride in their level of workplace productivity. Matson has also been involved in the implementation of new technologies for supervision and fee collection. He demonstrates a deep commitment to the duties and responsibilities of his position and the overall operational efficiency of the Department.

Sherron Rimpson is a field agent for the Berrien County Parole Office. He is recognized for his outstanding work and dedication to the Residential Sex Offender Program. Initially, the program in Berrien County encountered several unexpected problems including offenders with mental and medical conditions, offenders without identification, and offenders agitated with being placed in the program. Rimpson approached each of these challenges and created innovative and meaningful solutions. He assisted in developing better rapport between the Department, offenders, and community leaders. Rimpson also effectively responded to offender issues quickly so the program could continue and grow. Rimpson's energy and devotion to ensuring the success of Berrien Parole Office's sex offender program is commendable, and his efforts in this area have directly enhanced the positive reputation of the Department. His conduct is an outstanding demonstration of professionalism that each employee should strive to achieve.

If you know or have a chance to meet any of these award recipients, please congratulate them on their accolades and efforts to improve the Department in a positive and impactful way. The Department is proud of their efforts to make a difference in their area of control. In doing so, they have made the Department a better organization as a whole.



RE-ENTRY ROUNDTABLE: SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS & BETTER CITIZENS

Re-Entry Roundtable is a continuing column that provides news, facts, and program successes within the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative.

OAKLAND MPRI JOB CLUB: ATTENDANCE REQUIRED

Many come for the first time because we require it. They return, week after week, because they realize its value. Often the groups at the MPRI Services Center in Waterford and at Pontiac Parole are 40 to 50 strong – spilling into hallways, sometimes even with participants sitting on the floor.

This is the Oakland MPRI Job Club. From humble beginnings, we now hold three a week. One is customized for sex offenders. Last year, we expanded the concept to Livingston County. This month, despite fiscal challenges, we will begin a gender-specific Job Club for women.

MPRI partner provider, Jewish Vocational Services (JVS), runs Oakland's Job Club, which involves a specific curriculum, networking, guest speakers, group exercises and peer support. Perhaps participants speak to its value best.

"Comparing my current parole to my parole in 2006, I like what I'm going through now. I'd heard Oakland County had this program when I was inside, and when I got out, I saw it was true," said Derrick, an Oakland County MPRI participant speaking before his peers at a recent session. "This is a place we can come. We have each other. We're networking ourselves."

Derrick is breathing proof that an idea that looks good on paper can actually work in practice if it is modified, monitored, improved and kept focused.

"I've got rent to pay this week. I'm on my own. I'm in my own place," continued Derrick, who works as a manager at Jax Car Wash. "Without this pro-

gram, I don't think I'd even have a job because Chaka and Donnell have a repertoire with these companies."

Derrick certainly wouldn't have his current job, as Jax will only hire ex-felons who are referred and screened by Chaka McDonald or Donnell Cravens, MPRI representatives with JVS, which has served as an MPRI partner agency from the start.



Chaka McDonald, of JVS, leads a discussion about how participants can present their best selves to potential employers.

McDonald and Cravens provide job development, provide individual job search assistance and of course, run the Job Club, which was the brainchild of Cravens way back in 2007.

"We started it to create a sense of group cohesiveness among parolees, allowing them to share job leads and providing them with employment related soft skills specifically designed for ex-offenders," Cravens said. "In addition, we provide felony friendly job leads based on JVS staff relationships with employers."

Parolees who receive MPRI funding for transitional housing in Oakland County find it comes with strings attached and constant and consistent pres-

JOB CLUB (Continued on page 4)

JOB CLUB (Continued from page 3)

sure to become employed or enrolled in an entitlement benefit. At the start, we inform them that funding is for a period less than 90 days and is conditioned on mandatory weekly participation in Job Club, demonstrable efforts to become employed, participation in community service and contribution toward housing costs once they become employed.

At Job Club, we take attendance and collect written job search logs. Weekly, staffers with MPRI, JVS and our housing partners, Sequoia and Turning Point, hold sessions to discuss each participant's Job Club attendance and conduct at home. When one does become employed, we require him or her to make a contribution to rent. Housing extensions are given based on a parolee's performance at Job Club and at home. Throughout the process, everyone communicates. If a parolee misses Job Club, we send a letter warning him or her that funding will be terminated for another absence, and a copy goes to the agent, who drives the point home.



Oakland MPRI participant Derrick tells his peers he now pays his own rent – but he also cashes his own paycheck.

"This really is an example of collaborative case management that works on every level," said Cheryl Braxton, Northwestern Area Manager for the Metropolitan Region. "Parole and MPRI unite to ensure that parolees become independent rather

than complacent. In this county, MPRI also stands for Mature, Productive, Responsible and Independent."

At a recent session, McDonald stressed to participants that they should not term themselves "cons" when talking to potential employers.

"I'm not hiring an 'ex con' or a 'convict,' but I'm hiring a man who has a felony conviction who has the skills and the attitude to do this job," McDonald said, as those in his audience nodded. "You can be confident and humble at the same time."

MPRI participant Tony deemed McDonald and the peer speakers "inspiring" and shared that McDonald held a mock interview session with him last week, immediately before he had an actual job interview. "Chaka really did prepare me. What I gained from that was confidence," he said.

MPRI participant Tim had a particularly challenging road, spending six months in residential treatment and another six months at Turning Point before finding his way toward independence. Now, he has two jobs, and one is at an upscale restaurant in Birmingham. He shared an insightful tip at a recent Job Club, advising his peers to know something about current events, news or sports and engage in small talk before or after a job interview to come across as a normal, "everyday Joe" rather than as a parolee who lives in a bubble and doesn't know anything about what's going on in the rest of the world. He further encouraged them to get over mental blocks they have about looking for work and to be productive.

"None of us have anything better to do while we're on parole but work," Tim said. "Think about it!"

This article was written and submitted by Donna Lassa - Oakland/Livingston MPRI Community Coordinator

REACHING OUT TO DADS

BY THE EMPLOYEE SERVICE PROGRAM

June is the month we honor the fathers in our lives. From teaching us as children, to raising us and mentoring us as adults, fathers often play a pivotal role in our development. This month, take time to check in with the dads in your life and their mental health. Sometimes people need extra encouragement to reach out for help. Here are some symptoms you should watch for in your loved ones:

Symptoms of Depression:

- Feeling sad or unhappy;
- High levels of anxiety;
- Low energy;
- Lapses in personal hygiene, such as not bathing or shaving as regularly;
- Feeling worthless or hopeless; or
- Losing interest in activities or people

Although depression is an illness that affects both men and women, men are often less likely to ask for help. Just like any illness, depression is best treated as early as possible. This Father's Day, help the men close to you learn more



about depressive disorders and how to get effective help. The State of Michigan Employee Service Program offers free, anonymous mental health screenings at <http://www.mentalhealthscreening.org/screening> (keyword "espmi"). You can log on to the website and complete a brief questionnaire. Screenings for depression can also be completed by

calling 1-800-887-5676 and using the touch-tone keypad to respond to pre-recorded questions. The screening will offer customized feedback as well as the opportunity to schedule an appointment with a mental health profes-

sional if necessary. Screenings are not a professional diagnosis, but point out the presence or absence of symptoms and provide referral information for further evaluation if needed.

If you are concerned about yourself or other family members, or want to speak confidentially with a counselor, please contact the State of Michigan Employee Service Program at (517) 373-7630 (Lansing area) or (313) 456-4020 (Detroit area), or 1-800-521-1377 (statewide).

OUTLOOK MIGRATION STILL COMING SOON!

Central Office and other worksites have begun the migration to Microsoft Outlook. To support this migration, DTMB has created an intranet Web site called SharePoint located at:

<http://inside.michigan.gov/sites/dtmb/is/pmo/GWtoOutlook/DOCGWtoOutlook/default.aspx>

This Web site can only be accessed while logged into the server and provides the most up-to-date and complete information related to the roll-out plans, progress, and documentation. Staff is encouraged to visit the site regularly to receive updates and read training documentation and pre and post migration materials for Outlook 2003. As part of this migration, staff will need to frequently delete the old Groupwise e-mail addresses for those in your frequent contacts address book who have migrated to Outlook. An automated message from new Outlook users will remind others of the new address.

RIDE TO SUPPORT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The 6th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Ride and Poker Run to Benefit Special Olympics – Michigan takes place on July 23, 2011. Riders and autos are welcome to participate. Registration starts at 10 a.m. at Planet Powersports in Coldwater with the ride commencing at 11 a.m. A t-shirt and breakfast are included with your registration. All bikes must be at Artesian Wells Restaurant at US 127 and US 12 by 5:30 p.m. to participate in the dinner buffet and charity poker game. The cost is \$25 per rider or \$35 per bike/couple/auto. There will be cash prizes and merchandise giveaways as well. For more information or to register, please contact Carl White: (517) 398-3420, whitecm@michigan.gov or white.carl62@gmail.com. Online registration is available at www.planet-powersports.net/tours. Register by July 10 for a special early bird drawing and guaranteed t-shirt. Registration is also available on the day of the ride.



EMPLOYEE'S CHILD FACES IMMENSE CHALLENGE FAMILY SEEKS DONATIONS FOR SURGERY

Chris Bush is an Asst. Resident Unit Supervisor (ARUS) at Pugsley Correctional Facility in Kingsley. Chris and his wife are courageously facing a very serious medical condition their newborn son Ronan was confronted with just hours after birth. Ronan was born April 27, 2011 and 36 hours later he was in West Shore Hospital in Manistee, MI suffering respiratory distress. His respiratory distress worsened and Ronan was transferred to Munson Health in Traverse City, then DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids where he was identified as having Alveolar Capillary Dysplasia (ACD). This disease also afflicted his sister Phoebe, who died from ACD in 2010 at one month of age.



Baby Ronan

Because of the rare disease, Ronan needed a lung transplant, and he was transferred to St. Louis Children's Hospital, the premier children's organ transplant hospital in the United States. The hospital immediately treated an enlarged heart condition with an ECMO (Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation) machine. Ronan then had ground-breaking surgery and was the youngest baby (3 weeks) in the world to have the new Maquet Quadrox ID Pediatric external lung attached to him without the use of a pump to circulate his blood. Ronan's own heart now circulates the blood and the external lung provides CO2/O2 exchange.

Ronan is stable as he awaits a lung donor, which could take three months or more to find. After the transplant surgery, Ronan will stay in St. Louis for at least three months for further testing. Ronan's mom is currently staying at the Ronald McDonald house in St. Louis while father Chris makes trips to see his wife and little Ronan whenever he can.

St. Louis Children's Hospital has put a press release on their website that includes a Youtube video that includes the Bush family and the doctor who performed the "Bridge to Transplant" surgery.

[Ronan's Video](#)

The link below is to Ronan's donation page. Funds are managed by COTA (Children's Organ Transplant Association). The Bush family can submit medical bills to COTA and they will be reimbursed through available donations - which cover medical and travel expenses.

[Donate Today](#)

JUNE 17, 2011

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE





RETIREMENTS - MAY 2011



PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Allen, James A..... Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
 Anderson, Randy J..... Carson City Correctional Facility
 Artinian, James H..... Field Operations Metro Region
 Baker, Rickie L..... Kinross Correctional Facility
 Bentley, Kim M..... Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
 Brooks, James..... Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
 Brzoznowski, Thomas E..... Ojibway Correctional Facility
 Cantwell, Jody D..... Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
 Cattell, Steven T..... Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
 Cherrette, Richard J..... Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Cherrette, Teresa C..... Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Cole, Denise..... Alger Correctional Facility
 Crittenden, Rita D..... Ryan Correctional Facility
 Croad, Gary L..... Correctional Facilities - Northern Region
 Czerwinski, Harry A..... Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
 Dawkins, Lydia..... Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
 Ferris, Lynn..... G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
 Gomoluch, William P..... Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
 Haas, Robert M..... G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
 Hart, John S..... Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
 Hendrick, Marc R..... Florence Crane Correctional Facility
 Hernandez, Jane A..... Parnall Correctional Facility
 Holmes, Robert H..... Macomb Correctional Facility
 Johns, Archie L..... Alger Max Security Correct
 Kleinhardt, David..... Central Office
 Laudenslager, Mark D..... Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
 Lawrence, Jeffery J..... Crane Correctional Facility
 Leland, Rosanne M..... Correctn Central Office
 Marshall, Randy A..... Richard Handlon Correctional Facility
 McClurg, Glenda F..... Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center

RETIREMENTS (Continued on page 8)





RETIREMENTS (Continued from page 7)

Mckinney, Derwin Ryan Correctional Facility
 Meyers, Diane S Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
 Murphy, Marvin W Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
 Nageldinger, Janet A Lakeland Correctional Facility
 Partlo, Jeanne G Central Michigan Correctional Facility
 Phillips, Kenneth E Oaks Correctional Facility
 Piche, Paul M Central Michigan Correctional Facility
 Richey, Scott A Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
 Rich, Scott A Pugsley Correctional Facility
 Rowley, Ronald W Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
 Rutherford, Deborah J Carson City Correctional Facility
 Samper, Marianne E Central Office
 Sharpley, Jayna L Parnall Correctional Facility
 Silsbury, Robert L Central Michigan Correctional Facility
 Smith, Gary Central Michigan Correctional Facility
 Taylor, William J Kinross Correctional Facility
 Thompson, Bruce L Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Tremblay, Alain Crane Correctional Facility
 Urbon, James R Field Operations - Outstate Region
 Walker, Sharon Muskegon Correctional Facility
 Waller, Saronto L Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
 Woodward, Karl A Ryan Correctional Facility
 Yoak, Jack L Newberry Correctional Facility
 Zubek, Steven A Thumb Correctional Facility



PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

